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(19 August-8 September 1952)

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THE 19TH PARTY CONGRESS

The revised Statute of the 19th Party Congress to be held on 5 October, as announced in PRAVDA on 20 August, is given concentrated press and radio attention. PRAVDA's invitation of comment and criticism of the draft Statute by all Party members and candidates has been followed by the opening of a special section designed to reflect rank and file reaction to the new document. The importance attached to these views "from below" as it were, may be gathered from lavish space assigned to them by the paper which on September 4 came out in a 6-page issue. The Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party at the same time (26 August) calls upon all Party organizations, from the primary organizations up, to start immediate discussions of the revised Statute "under conditions of complete freedom of criticism" (v usloviakh polnoya svobody kritiki), and urges the Party press to publish the opinions of rank and filers both favorable and critical.

With one or two notable exceptions, the flood of "critical remarks" (kriticheskie zamechania) appearing in the special PRAVDA section titled "Materials For the 19th Party Congress" seem to harp on such petty issues as the phraseology of certain clauses in the Statute or the periods of convocation of oblast and lower Party conferences. There has been no reference so far, favorable or otherwise, to any of the basic tenets of the Communist Charter. Of some interest, in this connection, is a letter from Moshtalenko, a Communist worker of a Voroshilovgrad plant, who questions the definition of "eligibility for Party membership" as outlined in the new Statute. The latter, he quotes, points out that "any worker who does not exploit someone else's labor may be" a member of the Communist Party. This is obviously misleading in view of Stalin's Constitution which "established the fact, through legislation, that in the land of socialism exploitation has been liquidated" (v zakonodatelnom poriadke zakrepila polozhenie o tom, chto v strane sotsializma ekspluatatsia unichtozhena). Moshtalenko insists, therefore, that the use of the word "exploitation" in the text may give rise to "idle talk" (krivdolki) and prompt the suggestion of continuing exploitation in the country.

Another significant suggestion in regard to the wording of the new Charter comes from Popov, a Moscow Party member. Referring to Khrushchev's thesis on the proposed Statute published in the 26 August issue of PRAVDA and broadcast on the same day, he claims that paragraph 3, point K, is not clear enough, could easily be misconstrued and should therefore be further elucidated. The passage under consideration states that

the divulging of Party and State secrets is a crime before the Party and is incompatible with membership in its ranks.

CPYRGHT

Russian version:

razglashenie partiynoy i gosudarstvennoy tainy yavlyaetsya prestupleniem pered partey i nesovmestimo s prebyvaniem v eyo ryadakh.

Arguing that the above wording as it stands may be conducive to unjustifiable misunderstanding, Popov suggests that the point be rephrased to urge greater political vigilance on the part of the Communists, a decisive struggle against what he calls "dulled vigilance" (prituplenie bditelnosti) and a sense of security

CPYRGHT

... bearing in mind that we are living in a capitalist surrounding and that Communist vigilance is necessary in any sector and under any circumstances. The divulging of Party and State secrets is the gravest crime and is incompatible with membership in the Party.

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Russian version:

... pamyatuya, chto my nakhodimsya v kapitalisticheskoy okruzheni i chto bditel'nost' kommunistov neobkhodima na lubom uchastke i vo vsyakoy obstanovke. Razglasheniye partiynoy i gosudarstvennoy tainy yavlyetsya tyagtyaishim prestupleniem i nesovmestimo s prebyvaniem v ryadakh partii.

CPYRGHT

Heavily underscored in the above-suggested phraseology is the foreign element involved under conditions of continued "capitalist surrounding." This makes any security leak one of the worst political crimes which under Soviet laws may even call for capital punishment in time of peace.

Referring to Party discipline and staff relations within the Communist hierarchy, the draft Statute is cognizant of the highhanded methods of the leadership, suppression of criticism and other evils which, it indicates, will be given considerable attention at the forthcoming Congress. Party leaders, it is intimated, are in a better position to by-pass Party discipline than their less powerful comrades in the ranks, and many of them have been taking advantage of the possibility. Chapter 1, paragraph 4 of the revised Statute is obviously designed to remedy that situation:

The Party cannot have two types of discipline, one for the leaders and another for rank and filers. There is only one discipline in the Party, one law for all Communists regardless of their services and position.

CPYRGHT

Russian text:

V partii ne mozhet byt' dvukh distsiplin--odna dlya rukovoditeley, drugaya dlya ryadovykh. Partia imeyet odnu distsiplinu, odin zakon dlya vseh kommunistov, nezavisimo ot zaslug i zanimayemykh imi postov.

This is followed by the statement further in the same chapter that any Party member has the right to criticize "any Party official" (lubogo rabotnika partii), although there is no indication whether "any official" includes the Central Committee or higher levels.

Considerable space in the draft Statute is given to a redefinition of rights and duties of Party organizations at different levels as well as those of individual members. While Party control over the activities of Soviet and economic organizations is reaffirmed in specific terms, the relations between the armed forces and the Party organizations within them is referred to, somewhat cryptically, as something beyond the scope of the proposed charter:

Party organizations in the Soviet army, naval forces and transportation function on the basis of special instructions approved by the Central Committee.

CPYRGHT

Russian version:

Partiynye organizatsii v Sovetskoy Armii, Voenno-Morskikh Silakh i na transporte rabotayut na osnove osobykh instruktsiy, utverzhdayemykh Tsentralnym Komitetom.

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The security forces such as those under the Ministries of Internal Affairs (MVD) and State Security (MGB) are, as usual, not even mentioned by name.

AGRICULTURE

The prodigious output on agriculture in the period under review is diffuse in character, discussion of it ranging from autumn plowing and the construction of cow sheds to fishing and rural electrification. A Lukovets article carried in PRAVDA on 19 August (not broadcast) speaks of the "unsound situation" (neblagopoluchmoye polozhenie) in Belorussian SSR where there is no visible improvement in the utilization of farm implements. Combines are idle by the dozen in Molodechno, Grodno, Baranovich and other oblasts, and the daily output of those in operation is said to have been down to about 40 hectares per machine by the middle of August. The time lag between the harvesting and the threshing of grain is so great, that in a number of unnamed areas of the Republic one phase of the field operation is already coming to an end while the other one has not even begun. Nor is all well with cotton picking in Belorussia. Although the plan provides that at least 65 percent of the cotton crop be machine-picked, most of the cotton is now "getting overripe" (perestaivayet) while the machines are still lying idle around machine-tractor stations. What is most disconcerting about the whole harvesting situation, according to the author, is the continued indifferent attitude of the local leadership, as well as its downright opposition, to the introduction of new production technology:

CPYRGHT

... cases where machine-harvesting is simply ignored were observed in Brest, Grodno, Molodechno and other oblasts. Certain backward kolkhoz leaders did everything they could to hamper the introduction of new techniques while the Party and Soviet authorities did little to put an end to that harmful anti-State tendency.

Russian version:

... v Brestskoy, Grodnenskoy, Molodechnenskoy i drugikh oblastyakh nabludalis fakty pryamogo ignorirovaniya mashinnoy uborki urozhaya. Nekotorie otstalie rukovoditeli kolkhozov vsiacheski prepyatatstvovali vnedreniu tekhniki, a partiynie i sovetskie organy malo sdelali dlya togo, chtoby presech etu vrednyuyu antigosudarstvennuyu tendentsiu.

The extremely slow harvesting tempos and low machine productivity in a number of RSFSR oblasts are sharply criticized in an unsigned PRAVDA article of 6 September. Analyzing the reasons for this unenviable performance, the article says that the new army of young and inexperienced combine operators are for the most part denied the necessary political and mechanical assistance on the part of the local Party and agricultural officials. Fuel, water and spare parts for the machines, though available elsewhere, are not delivered to where they are needed, and the result is idle machinery all over the field. Lack of skill among the young operators is also a contributing factor: it frequently happens that combines are put out of commission after one day's work, and no one among the crews is able to repair them. Such, it is claimed, is the situation now in Kalinin, Kaluga, Vologda, Smolensk, Velikie Luki and Yaroslav Oblasts where harvesting for a period of 5 days varied between five and eight percent of the plan. A new low in combine performance is said to have been reached in Firovskiy Rayon, Kalinin Oblast, where 15 combines were barely able to harvest 77 hectares of grain in 5 days, that is about one hectare a day per machine.

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The Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture, according to a RADYANSKA UKRAINA report of 30 August, is greatly concerned by the slow progress of preparations for planting winter cultures. The chief agricultural officials of Zhitomir and Kamenets Podolsk Oblasts, it is disclosed, have already been "severely reprimanded" for the agricultural mess in their respective areas, while a third, that of Zaporozhye Oblast, is threatened with "severe punishment" (suvoro pokarannya), if he fails to step up the preparations for winter culture planting. Fallow plowing and other phases of soil preparation for autumn planting are, in the Ministry's view, hopelessly behind in Rovno, Suma, Ternopol, Kherson, Nikolayevsk, Odessa and Zaporozhye Oblasts. In some of them, in fact, autumn plowing has not even started and tractor brigades are not yet organized. Tractors and combines, the report hints, are not always idle because of premature breakdowns, although this is often the case, but also because the men assigned to operate them are not always there. And no wonder, they are simply not fed. The regulations call for the organization of field kitchens, comfortable tents and other amenities for machine operators but "in many brigades the feeding of tractor drivers has not been organized, and camps have not been set up ..." (v bagatyokh brigadakh ne organizovano gromadskogo kharchuvannya traktorystiv, nema polyovykh taboriv ...)

A highly critical KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA editorial broadcast from Alma Ata on 3 September declares bluntly that the tempo of fallow plowing in the Republic is "extremely low" because the Ministries of Agriculture, Cotton and Sovkhozes are exercising "extremely poor" leadership. The introduction of advanced technical equipment is held back by the indifferent attitude toward machinery on the part of oblast and other officials. The available machines on the fields are not used to full capacity due to lack of desire and skill. But these are not the only shortcomings, according to the paper. Much work is yet to be done before the grain deliveries to the State are completed and the necessary winter sheds for cattle are built. The editorial offers no more details on the Republic's agricultural situation beyond the remark that Alma Ata, Karaganda, Semipalatinsk and Taldy Kurgan Oblasts are the worst of the lot and that something had better be done there before it is too late.

A previous broadcast from Alma Ata (28 August) had stated that Kokchetav and East Kazakhstan were among the slowest oblasts in the Republic in their harvesting operations. A large number of harvesting machines "has not yet been put to work," while some of the combines on the fields have so far shown an average daily output of 4.4 hectares which is "absolutely intolerable."

A summarized version of a PRAVDA article broadcast on 25 August says that the Central Committee of the Kirghiz Communist Party, convened to set the date for the convocation of the sixth Kirghiz Party Congress, found it necessary to discuss "the liquidation of agricultural State violations in the Republic" and take appropriate measures. There is no intimation as to the scope of the mentioned violations or the severity of the measures adopted, however.

Although preparations for winter culture production--seed cleaning, fallow plowing, sowing etc.--are among the chief targets of the central and republican-level propaganda, other phases of field work are not overlooked.

Livestock and Fodder: The hay-making and storing season is officially over but reports from various localities point to unfinished jobs here and there. SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS reveals (19 August) that a number of Stalino Oblast rayons "are still unable" to stockpile the necessary fodder supplies despite the machinery and manpower at their disposal. Krasnoarmeiskiy, Andreyevskiy, Staromlinovskiy and Slavyansk Rayons are listed as critical areas where the future well being of the cattle is extremely uncertain. A KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA article broadcast on 19 August sees increasing signs of a repetition of last year's mistakes. In 1951, it says, there was a shortage of fodder with the result that cattle had to be fed straw and chaff which lowered its productivity and stunted its growth. The present

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progress in fodder preparations is strongly reminiscent of last winter's situation:

Mechanizers are waiting until kolkhozes gather the straw and sheaves, and kolkhoz chairmen are waiting for help from machine-tractor stations, and while they are waiting, time goes by and the soil is drying up.

CPYRGHT

A Godeyev article published in CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA and broadcast on 4 September says that although there is every reason to look forward to a decent fodder base in Odessa Oblast, the present situation does not justify such optimism. Rich agricultural crops have been grown this year, it is pointed out, but the prospects for improving the stockbreeding industry are not as bright as they should be. Nor can any improvement in the livestock industry be expected until the "many lagging" agricultural artels are brought up to the level of the leading ones. On the whole, Godeyev concludes, the question of "raising the number of cattle and its productivity" is not being solved satisfactorily.

A short item transmitted from Kirovograd (6 September) says that last year's mistakes are now being repeated, particularly in Yelisavetgradkovskiy Rayon. In several places the plan for the procurement of coarse, green and concentrated fodder "is not being fulfilled."

A MOLOT editorial (3 September) speaks of the "inadmissible situation" and "careless attitude" of the Rostov Oblast leaders toward providing winter shelters for cattle. It appears that the dreaded mistakes of last year are being repeated with a vengeance: this careless attitude "has caused a serious loss of cattle this year." The cattle farms of Dubovskiy, Martynovskiy, Semikarakovskiy and a number of other rayons are still unprepared for the winter, but the authorities do not seem to be doing much about it. There are not enough winter sheds to house all the stock nor sufficient fodder to feed it in winter, the paper concludes, and the situation is simply "crying for effective measures."

Cotton: The Crimean cotton growers, says KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA editorially on 19 August, have a long way to go before their performance on the field can be called "exemplary." The oblast's cotton officials appear to be chary about the mechanization of cotton pruning, for example. Although the hay-mowing machine has recently been adopted for that particular operation, the innovation has not met with the expected acclaim among cotton growers. A report broadcast from Tashkent on 4 September asserts that despite the fact that the cotton-picking campaign is going full tilt, "the tempo of cotton-picking and delivery is far from corresponding to its possibilities." No further details are offered.

Fishing: Trawling and other "active" types of fishing account for the relative progress made by the Crimean fishing industry so far, according to a broadcast from Simferopol on 19 August quoting engineer Shatunov of the laboratory for "Fishing Techniques." Fishing with submerged seines or other stationary devices is on the whole "progressing very slowly." Deputy Minister of the Fishing Industry Babayan announces that a number of fishing combines in the Black Sea area, Sakhalin and Primorye are still lagging behind the plan because the introduction of mechanization in those enterprises has had rough sledding. Besides, says the Minister, the leaders of the mentioned combines do not appear to show much enthusiasm for the advanced experience of the fully mechanized Siberian and Ukrainian branches of this industry even though it is their duty to propagate such experience among their own workers.

Sowing and Plowing: A Moscow Home Service item (22 August) states that over 86 percent of all grain crops, including maize, have been harvested in the Ukraine so far, and that 75 percent of this has been threshed. No overall harvesting figures for the RSFSR or any other Republic are as yet available, but it may be assumed that the Ukraine, having begun its grain-harvesting earlier than the others, is naturally closer to

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completing its task ahead of them. There is, of course, no letup in the relentless agricultural propaganda in general, but a relaxation of pressure for speedy harvesting and a corresponding intensification of the drive for preparations for the next phase of field work are clearly evident.

On 26 August KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA complained that very little plowing was being done in the oblast and that no efforts had been made to secure the necessary seeds for autumn sowing. Returning to the theme on 5 September, the paper admitted that the preparations for autumn sowing are progressing in a "manifestly unsatisfactory manner" in some rayons. In many places, like in Leninsky Rayon for example, only a small part of the winter crop area has been plowed up, while in others the fields "have not even been cleared of straw and other vegetable matter." Autumn plowing in Rostov Oblast has got off to an inauspicious start, according to MOLOT (29 August), although there is no valid excuse for it. Among the first oblasts to begin harvesting this year, Rostov may end up among the last in its autumn plowing and sowing. The fallow land earmarked for plowing has been utterly neglected, according to the editorial, and is now covered with weeds. Such an "intolerable situation" is said to exist in Proletarskiy, Zimovnikovskiy, Selivanovskiy, Tsymlianskiy and other unnamed rayons. Elsewhere the outlook is not much better. In Anastasievskiy Rayon, for example, "not a single centner of winter wheat" has been prepared for sowing. Seed cleaning is said to be badly organized in Migulinskiy, Alexeyevo-Lozovskiy and Kolushinskiy Rayons.

Fallow plowing and sowing are dealt with also in two STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorials (2 and 4 September), both of them expressing concern over the familiar repetition of last year's mistakes. The two main reasons for the delay in plowing operations, according to the 2 September editorial, are the lack of incentive on the part of rayon leaders, and broken tractors. Feeble leadership (slaboye rukovodstvo) is said to be primarily responsible for the sorry state of affairs in Novoselitskiy, Budennovskiy, Impatovskiy, Turkmenskiy and Gofitskiy Rayons, which have all the necessary manpower and equipment for a good job but are not doing it. Referring to a number of unnamed other rayons, the paper says that "it is essential to put all the tractors into working order." On 4 September, the same paper hints at the "most undesirable consequences" to be expected should plowing be delayed much longer. Some agricultural leaders, the editorial declares, "are still trying to figure out" the most favorable time for autumn sowing without realizing that the sowing season has already begun while they are still behind in their plowing.

MOLOT feels compelled to admit (7 September) that all its previous strictures about shortcomings in the oblast's plowing and sowing have been largely wasted on a number of rayons: "Evidence shows ... that the leaders of rayons, machine-tractor stations and kolkhozes failed to draw the necessary conclusions." Many machine-tractor stations are still failing to adhere to the prescribed plowing quotas, while the quality of what little work they do is said to be "extremely unsatisfactory." Most of the collective farms and machine-tractor stations of Azovskiy, Proletarskiy, Zimovnikovskiy, Zverevskiy and other rayons "have in fact still not begun their fallow plowing."

Charges of indifferent leadership, idle machinery and "extremely low" fallow plowing tempos are contained in a KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA editorial of 6 September. The agricultural situation in the oblast as a whole is far from satisfactory, the paper asserts, and "the prospects for next year's harvest are alarming." Three rayons, namely Rovnyanskiy, Peschano-Brodskiy and Dolinskiy, and five machine-tractor stations in other rayons are singled out as the most backward in the oblast. This backwardness, it is pointed out, is not remedied by the local Party, komsomol and agricultural leaders who "are not even striving to eliminate the shortcomings."

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INDUSTRY

Low production quality, production losses and inadequate technical control over industrial output are the chief targets of radio and press criticism. On Miner's Day (31 August) PRAVDA departs from its customary praises reserved for such occasions to say that the coal mining industry is still not doing its best. RADYANSKA UKRAINA (19 August) says that the fight against production wastes and rejects has apparently not produced the desired results, and urges a more rigid control over the qualitative output of major industrial plants. The Dzerzhinsky metallurgical plant is pointed to as a shocking example of poor management and waste:

... in the first 7 months of 1952 the plant over-expended 87,000 tons of iron ore, 21,000 tons of manganese as well as a large amount of raw and other materials. Its Marten and rolled-steel departments produced thousands of tons of rejected metal.

Ukrainian text:

... za sim misyatsiv 1952 roku zavod perevytratyv 87,000 tonn zaliznoi rudy, 21,000 tonn margantsyu i velyku kilkist inshykh vydiv syrovyny ta materialiv. Yogo martenivski i prokatni tsekhi vypustyly tysyachi tonn brakovannogo metalu.

Such industrial management, the paper states, is not conducive to profitable operations. It has in fact sent production costs skyrocketing, and the State budget is thus deprived of millions of rubles in revenue. Looking into the reasons for this calamitous situation, the editorial points to the lack of technical control as the source of all evils. The Technical Control Departments instituted in all the large industrial plants have the power to enforce the necessary production standards designed to improve the quality of products and reduce wastes. But how can this be done successfully, the paper argues, when the majority of the so-called technical controllers "do not have the necessary technical qualifications" for the job (ne mae potribnykh tekhnicheskyykh znan). Unfortunately, the editorial concludes, the Dzerzhinsky plant is only one among many others which seem to have forgotten all about quality production. With the exception of the Kirov metallurgical plant of Makeyev, however, no other enterprise is mentioned by name.

In an answers to radio listeners' questions program broadcast on the Home Service on 2 September, Postolovskiy familiarly juxtaposes the "various sweat shop methods" used in capitalist countries to "squeeze" more production out of the individual worker with the Soviet laborers who "are masters of the country's riches." The American worker, he says, works hard and economizes on raw materials under compulsion, knowing that the capitalist alone benefits from his efforts. Conveniently avoiding any reference to the pressure aspect in the case of Soviet workers, Postolovskiy says that a regime of rigid economy in industry benefits the entire country and is therefore accepted by the workers. Economy, however, there must be, and every bit of it counts:

For instance, if our textile mills reduce rejects by only one percent, they will be able to produce the additional cloth required for the plan production of 4.4 million articles of underwear, 296,000 woolen suits or overcoats and 102,000 silk dresses.

CPYRGHT

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Russian text:

Naprimer, esli nashi tekstilnie fabriki snizyat brak tolkho na odin protsent, oni smogut vypustit dobavochno stolko tkani, skolko trebuyetsya dlya izgotovleniya sverkh plana 4.4 milliona par belya, 296 tysyach sherstyannykh kostyumov ili palto i 102 tysyach shelkovykh platyev.

CPYRGHT

NADNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA (5 September) says that some enterprises in Kherson Oblast "are allowing huge production losses, and do not care for quality" A number of manufacturing artels and industrial combines, the paper complains, "show poor interest" in the qualitative and economy aspect of production, incur overhead expenses and wastes of fuel and raw materials. Similar mismanagement is noted among the oblast building organizations including the highly -publicized Kakhovka hydro-electric power station: "Nearly all the building organizations of Kherson are working at a loss." It is claimed that the losses sustained by the Dnieper Constructions Administration (Dneprobud) alone are equivalent to the cost of building "a palace of culture and 32 dwellings." Previous broadcasts from Odessa (19 August) and Kiev (30 August) listed a number of construction and other enterprises which were still lagging behind the plan and whose work was "very unsatisfactory" but made no reference to losses.

Rostov Oblast, frequently criticized for its poor performance in agriculture, is said to be near the bottom of the list in its industrial construction progress as well. Building in the oblast has been lagging so far behind, according to MOLOT (6 September), that the Central Committee of the Communist Party had to "instruct" the oblast Party "to liquidate the shortcomings, strengthen State discipline and insure the fulfillment of the plan." But the Central Committee's injunction must have fallen short of the mark for, as the paper admits, "despite this fact, 11 out of 29 building organizations are still not fulfilling their plans" In Oktyabrsky Rayon alone "not one building organization" is fulfilling its State quota. The reasons: bad labor organization, poor utilization of machinery, no socialist competition and "a low standard" of mass political work among the construction workers.

Miner's Day (31 August) occasions a considerable volume of comment on the coal mining industry, all of it in familiar enthusiastic vein. Thus a report from Stavropol on 25 August announces that the average daily output per miner of the Stavropol Coal Trust during the past 7 months has been 142 percent of the norm, and that unspecified amounts of coal are being produced above plan. Deputy Coal Minister Kratenko said in an interview of 25 August that since the adoption of the cyclic production method in Donbas the average daily output of coal has been increased by 43 percent and labor productivity by 29 percent. A PRAVDA article by coal minister Zasyadko broadcast on 31 August, while expressing similar confidence in the industry's present and future, appears to be cognizant of its failings. Speaking of the latest technological achievements of Soviet engineering in coal mining, the Minister says that

even such modern equipment as coal combines and loading machines are still insufficiently utilized. Many machines remain idle for long periods of time due to the failures in the work of underground transportation, shortcomings and accidents.

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Russian text:

Dazhe takaya sovershennaya tekhnika, kak ugol-
nie kombainy i pogruzochnie mashiny, ispolzuetsya
eshche nedostatochno. Mnogie mashiny dlitelnoye
vremya prostaiyut iz-za nedostatkov v rabote
podzemnogo transporta i iz-za nepoladkov i avari-
y.

CPYRGHT

Nor is the inept handling of machinery, new or old, the only explanation of the shortcomings which, by the Minister's own admission, have not yet been eliminated. A number of mines and construction projects of the mining industry, he says, are still employing the long condemned method of "shturmovshchina" whereby the production target is "attacked" in force shortly before the deadline. (The word "accident" (avaria) as it appears in the above quotation is, incidentally, mentioned for the first time in Soviet broadcasts on mining).

PRAVDA's editorial on Miner's Day (31 August) betrays a feeling of controlled optimism. The Soviet mines and miners, the paper says in effect, are on the whole working pretty hard but we must not frown on the fact that they are not doing enough, since some of their "serious shortcomings" (seryoznie nedostatki) are in the habit of lingering on. The truth is, as the paper sees it, that "a considerable part of the mines and mining sections are unable to cope with their planned assignments" (Znachitelnaya chast shakht i uchastkov ne spravlyaetsya s planovymi zadaniyami). In a vague allusion to what might be construed as mine accidents, the paper speaks in disparaging terms of "certain mine leaders who ... are not taking the necessary steps toward restoring order in intramine transportation" (otdelnie rukovoditeli shakht ... ne prinyimayut dolzhnykh mer k uporyadocheniu del na vnutrishakhtnom transporte). The industry, it is further revealed, is a little too slow in commissioning new pits, building new houses and culture buildings (zдания kulturno-bytovogo naznacheniya) for the miners and, above all, in adopting the cyclical production method.

Transportation: A broadcast from Tbilisi on August 19 says that the work of the Transcaucasian Railroad has deteriorated to such an extent that the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party held a special conference to discuss the situation. As on previous occasions in this Republic, the former leadership of the Central Committee is reviled for "its vicious methods" and undesirable heritage in the railroad industry. The Central Committee found, however, that not much had been done to rectify the mistakes committed by its predecessor:

The fight against the violation of Soviet law has not been joined on the Transcaucasian Railroad, where stealing and embezzlement are far from being liquidated and where no measures are taken against passengers using the railroad without tickets.

CPYRGHT

ZARYA VOSTOKA (19 August) refers to the "bad discipline" on the railroad which makes it possible for many workers to violate the rules of technical exploitation "causing failures and damage." The paper speaks also of "bribery, embezzlement and fraud" which are still rampant on the railroad, and the continued traveling without tickets. Certain railroad officials, it is disclosed, are known to "protect these offenders" and the Political Departments do not seem to be aware of the fact. The administration of the Transcaucasian Railroad, the editorial concludes, "is requested to put its work on a fresh basis" with a view to putting an end to the old shortcomings and tackling the large problems on hand.

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MISCELLANEOUS

A Home Service report of 4 September says that the Momotovo workers' settlement established 5 years ago on the Enissei river, 200 kilometers from Krasnoyarsk, continues to grow and its railway-sleeper factory is being expanded. It will supply sleepers not only for Siberian railways but also for those in the Urals and in Central Asia.

A TASS transmission for Europe (28 August) announces that excavations on the site of the ancient state of Urartu in Armenian SSR have yielded abundant proof of the "connections between the Urartu people and ancient Slav tribes in North Caucasus and the Dnieper area" as far back as the 7th century B.C.

A decision of the USSR Academy of Sciences calls for the opening of a new department in the Institute of Linguistics designed "to raise the culture of speech" both oral and written, according to TASS to the provincial press of 29 August.

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